

ment (Department of Education) has prepared a detailed curriculum on Remote Sensing for introduction at various academic levels. Department of Space has assisted national Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) to update curriculum related to future science at upper secondary school in the areas of space. So far over 20 book in Hindi, English and in other Indian Languages have been published on various aspects related to the space achievements in India.

Food Processing Units at Nasik and Nagpur

2271. DR. VASNAT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the setting up of food processing units in Nasik and Nagpur regions of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to encourage export of onions and fruits which are in abundance in Nasik/Nagpur regions of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO):

(a) and (b). In all 14 applications for manufacture of beer, malt spirit and potable alcohol from non-molasses sources in the districts of Nagpur and Nasik in Maharashtra have been received. Besides, a proposal seeking financial assistance for an integrated post harvest crop management project for grapes covering, inter alia, Nasik region has been received from the State Government.

(c) National Agriculture Marketing Federation (NAFED) which is the canalising agency for export of onions has adopted 10 villages in Maharashtra for improving cultivation and yield of onions. It has also developed modern onion storages in the main onion growing areas of Maharashtra for export during off season, has set up an organisation for undertaking research on quality of onion and for extension work and taken steps for improvement in unit value realisation. The export of fruits are freely allowed. Agricultural and processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce provides assistance to exporters by providing international market information product promotion, market development, etc. The State Government's proposal of Post harvest Crop Management Project mentioned in reply to parts (a) & (b) above is also for promoting export of grapes.

Encroachments on Government Land

Encroachments on Government Land

2272. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the action proposed to be taken against the persons who made encroachment on the Government lands and the pavement encroachers in metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The unauthorised encroachments on public lands is governed by the relevant provisions of building Byelaws of the respective municipal Bodies/Local Bodies in the States/Union Territories. It is, therefore, for the concerned Local Bodies to take action against such persons and pavement encroachers in the metropolitan cities.

[Translation]

Workers Above Poverty Line

2273. SHRI SURIYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have made efforts to bring the labourers above the poverty line during 1990-91 and if so, the total number of labourers brought above the line; and

(b) the details of the action taken for the welfare of the labourers in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). Annual figures of labourers brought above the poverty line are not maintained. The government is operating a large number of schemes for the uplift of the weaker sections of labour force like the fixing of minimum wages linked to poverty line, implementation of poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self employment (TRYSEM), Development of women and Children in Rural areas (DWCRA), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and schemes for financial assistance to landless agricultural labour and pension schemes for the old and destitute.

[English]

Nuclear Power Plant in Saharsa, Bihar

2274. SHRISURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) whether the cost of power generation is less in such type of plants as compared to the other sources of energy;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up any such nuclear plant in Saharsa district of Bihar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Presently eight nuclear reactors are in operation, at four stations (Tarapur, Rajasthan, Kalpakkam and Narora).

(b) Cost of nuclear power generation from these units is comparable to that of coal thermal power plants located away from coal pit-heads.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to availability of coal reserves in eastern electricity region of which Bihar is a part, the priority for setting up of nuclear power plants is relatively low.

Major Project in Saharsa District, Bihar

2275. SHRI SURAYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING PROGRAMME implementation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any major project in Saharsa district of Northern Bihar;

(b) if so, the funds allocated/proposed for this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not undertaking any such project in this backward area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). No such proposal to launch a major project in Saharsa district of Northern Bihar has been received from the State Government by the Planning Commission.